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PATENT APPLICATION

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☒ original patent application,

☐ continuation-in-part application

INVENTOR(S): **RAMANI et al.**

TITLE: **Enterprise Application Transactions as Shared Active Documents**

Enclosed are:

☒ The Declaration and Power of Attorney. ☒ signed ☐ unsigned or partially signed

☒ 7 sheets of drawings (one set) ☐ Associate Power of Attorney

☐ Form PTO-1449 ☐ Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449

☐ Priority document(s) ☐ (Other) _____ (fee \$ _____)

CLAIMS AS FILED BY OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY

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TOTAL CLAIMS	20 — 20	0	X \$18	\$ 0
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	3 — 3	0	X \$78	\$ 0
ANY MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS	0		\$260	\$ 0
BASIC FEE: Design \$310.00); Utility \$690.00)				\$ 690
TOTAL FILING FEE				\$ 690
OTHER FEES				\$
TOTAL CHARGES TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT				\$ 690

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By _____

Typed Name:

Respectfully submitted,

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By _____

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ENTERPRISE APPLICATION TRANSACTIONS AS SHARED ACTIVE DOCUMENTS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The field of the invention is business processes over the Internet, and more particularly, systems for improving the sharing and accessing of information regarding transactions.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 In enterprise applications today, databases are used to store a high volume of data. More often than not, even in the smallest enterprises, data from various transactions is stored in a number of different databases. The data is generated by a diverse set of different business applications which make organizing and accessing the data quite challenging. Together with the high volume of data and the number of different databases,
15 this makes translating the data into usable information a huge and time consuming task. This costs the very purpose of information - timeliness.

 The origins of all this data are transactions. Each transaction sets off a chain event of business processes. For example, one Purchase Order transaction creates a web of business events and more transactions in the originating enterprise's business process.
20 The creation of these business events and transactions continues until the life of the Purchase Order finally comes to an end. The data created by the Purchase Order also has an effect on a destination enterprise in which a corresponding Sales Order transaction is created to process the purchase request from the originating enterprise. Maintaining linkages between these two transactions is not an easy task, especially if they are long-
25 lived.

 If an enterprise wishes to know the status of a Purchase Order it placed with a supplier enterprise, it presently takes a physical contact, often a phone call or a facsimile, between persons in each enterprise. Generally, it takes a few days at best before an adequate answer can be provided. This process and the time it takes is an aberration in
30 the age of the Internet. There needs to be a way for a person in the originating enterprise

to access the status of the Purchase Order, or other transaction, emanating from the originating enterprise quickly and easily. The person in the originating enterprise should be able to access not only information from the web of business events and other transactions in the originating enterprise, but also from the web of business events and transactions resulting from the Sales order, or other linked transactions, in the supplier enterprise.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An active document represents a transaction and enables a user to determine the status of the transaction and obtain information about the transaction by accessing and viewing the active document. The active document comprises a first transaction resource which describes a transaction created at a first enterprise. The first transaction resource comprises metadata that provides the attributes of the first transaction resource.

The metadata is organized into service specific data ("SSD") fields. The SSD fields include identifiers of one or more sub-transaction resources that describe additional transactions or processes created as a result of the transaction. These identifiers link the first transaction resource with the one or more sub-transaction resources. This link allows the active document to contain all the information relevant to the transaction, including information from both the first enterprise and other enterprises. After the first transaction resource is registered, it is constantly updated with any new data from one or more sub-transaction resources due to this link. Consequently, the user can access and view the active document to determine the status of the transaction and obtain any information about the transaction.

The active document enables enterprises to move away from the prior modes of communication with each other. The active document provides an easy method of obtaining information from one source without having to translate the data from numerous databases. The active document not only provides more efficient inter-enterprise transactions, but also enables improvement in intra-enterprise operations since an enterprise can keep track of its internal transactions with active documents.

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An embodiment of the invention is an active document encapsulating a transaction and the transaction's current status, comprising a first set of data fields, wherein the data fields represent attributes of a parent transaction and include a sub-identifier field; and a first set of metadata, wherein the first set of metadata populates the first set of data fields and describes the attributes represented by the first set of data fields, the sub-identifier field including metadata from the first set of metadata that identifies a secondary transaction, linking data generated by the secondary transaction to the active document. This embodiment of the invention may be created by creating a parent transaction resource, wherein the parent transaction resource represents a parent transaction and is linked to data generated by a secondary transaction, the creating a parent transaction resource step comprising the steps of generating a first set of data fields, wherein the first set of data fields represent attributes of the parent transaction and include a sub-identifier field; and populating the first set of data fields with a first set of metadata, wherein the metadata describes the attributes represented by the data fields.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF FIGURES

Figure 1a is a block diagram of a platform supporting the present invention.

Figure 1b is a block diagram of hardware supporting the platform.

Figure 2 is a diagram of an embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a flow-chart showing a method for creating the active documents.

Figure 4 is a block diagram of an alternative platform supporting the present invention.

Figure 5 is a diagram of another embodiment of the present invention.

Figures 6 and 7 are diagrams illustrating an example of application of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As shown in Figure 2, the invention is an active document 10. An active document 10 is created when a transaction is initiated between two or more enterprises. The active document 10 encapsulates the current status of the transaction, enabling a user to view the transaction as represented by the active document 10. The active document comprises relevant information about the transaction which the user can see simply by looking at the active document 10.

The active document 10 is shared among enterprises between whom an initial transaction is being conducted. Any subsequent processes or transactions spun off or triggered by the initial transaction are linked to the active document 10. The information produced by these processes and transactions are also viewable from the active document 10. The active document 10 is destroyed when it is no longer of interest (e.g., the initial transaction and all processes triggered by the initial transaction have been completed).

Active documents 10 are implemented on platforms or infrastructures that facilitate electronic transactions between enterprises. The embodiment of the invention described below utilizes the mechanisms of e-speak technology as described in "e-speak Architecture Specification," version Beta 2.2, December 1999 and "e-speak Web Access Programmers Guide," version Beta 2.2, December 1999 (collectively, "the e-speak documents"), which are herein incorporated by reference. E-speak technology is a platform that provides a computational model based on a set of services a user accesses as needed. The invention, however, may be implemented on any similar infrastructure or platform and is not limited to e-speak technology.

Figure 1a shows an instance of the e-speak platform called a logical machine 20. The logical machine 20 comprises a core 22 and a repository 24. Also shown in Figure 1a are resources 26, a client 28, and a resource handler 30. One or more logical machines 20 may be on a single physical machine. Likewise, the components of a single logical machine 20 may be distributed across multiple physical machines. Accordingly, the e-speak platform contemplates three models for a local logical machine 20: a centralized site, an enterprise site, or a vertical marketplace. The centralized site hosts

every logical machine 20. The enterprise site hosts an enterprise's logical machine 20. The vertical marketplace is hosted by a third-party and is the most efficient model. The vertical marketplace model is utilized for the active document 10 embodiments described below.

As shown in Figure 1b, a physical machine may be a server 76. A server 76 typically includes a memory 62, a secondary storage device 74, a processor 72, an input device 70, a display device 68, and an output device 66. Memory 62 may include RAM or similar types of memory, and it may store one or more applications 64 for execution by processor 72. Secondary storage device 74 may include a hard disk drive, floppy disk drive, CD-ROM drive, or other types of non-volatile data storage. Processor 72 may execute one or more applications or programs stored in memory 62 or secondary storage 74, or received from the Internet or other network 60. Input device 70 may include any device for entering information into server 76, such as a keyboard, mouse, cursor-control device, touch-screen, microphone, digital camera, video recorder or camcorder. Display device 68 may include any type of device for presenting visual information such as, for example, a computer monitor or flat-screen display. Output device 66 may include any type of device for presenting a hard copy of information, such as a printer, and other types of output devices, including speakers or any device for providing information in audio form

Referring again to Figure 1a, the core 22 is the active entity of the logical machine 20. The core 22 mediates and controls access to resources 26 registered in the repository 24. The repository 24 is the passive entity of the logical machine 20. The repository 24 stores metadata from one or more resources 26. Resources 26 provide a uniform description of active entities and passive entities that are accessed through the e-speak platform. A resource 26 may describe, for example, a file, a printer, a Java object, a legacy application, or any other hardware device or computational service. Each resource 26 comprises metadata that describes the entity, and a state, which is data needed to implement the entity. For example, a file resource is a description of the attributes of the file and how the file may be accessed. The metadata is preferably written in Extensible Mark-up Language (XML), but, other similar languages may be used. The

use of XML allows resources 26 to be accessed and viewed through a web-browser, such as Internet Explorer ® or Netscape Navigator ®.

The client 28 is any active entity that uses the e-speak platform to process a request for a resource 26. Users at a client 28, and other clients not shown, interact with the core 22. As shown in Figure 1b, a client 28 includes a user machine 38 connected with a network 60 such as the Internet, providing a network connection to the logical machine 20. Examples of user machines include personal computers, laptop computers, notebook computers, palm top computers, network computers, or any processor-controlled device capable of executing a web browser or other type of application for interacting with the system.

User machine 38 illustrates typical components of a user machine. User machine 38 typically includes a memory 40, a secondary storage device 50, a processor 52, an input device 54, a display device 48, and an output device 46. Memory 40 may include random access memory (RAM) or similar types of memory, and it may store one or more applications 44, and a web browser 42, for execution by processor 52. Secondary storage device 50 may include a hard disk drive, floppy disk drive, CD-ROM drive, or other types of non-volatile data storage. Processor 52 may execute applications or programs stored in memory 40 or secondary storage 50, or received from the Internet or other network 60. Input device 54 may include any device for entering information into machine 38, such as a keyboard, mouse, cursor-control device, or touch-screen. Display device 48 may include any type of device for presenting visual information such as, for example, a computer monitor or flat-screen display. Output device 46 may include any type of device for presenting a hard copy of information, such as a printer, and other types of output devices, including speakers for providing information in audio form.

Web browser 42 is used to interact with the core 22 and resources 26. Examples of web browsers include Internet Explorer ® and Netscape Navigator ®. Any web browser or other application capable of retrieving content from a network and displaying pages or screens may be used.

The resource handler 30 is responsible for responding to requests for access to one or more resources 26. To access a resource 26, the client 28 sends a message to the

core 22 identifying the resource 26. The core 22 uses resource 26 metadata, stored in the repository 24, to determine if the client 28 is permitted to access the resource 26 and to locate the resource handler 30. If access is permitted, the core 22 forwards the message to the resource handler 30 that, in turn, physically accesses the resource 26.

The resource 26 may be stored in the physical machine described above or at some other location.

Figure 2 illustrates an embodiment of the present invention. In the embodiment shown, the active document 10 comprises a parent transaction resource 12 that is electronically linked to one or more sub-transaction resources 120, as described below.

A parent transaction resource 12 comprises metadata 14 describing a parent transaction initiated between two or more enterprises, such as a purchase order, and service specific data ("SSD") fields 16. The metadata 14 is organized in the SSD fields 16. Metadata is data that is used to describe a resource. Each SSD field 16 includes or is populated with metadata 14 describing one or more attributes of the parent transaction. For example, as seen in Figure 2, the SSD fields 16 may include metadata 14 describing the type, the quantity, the price, or the expected date of delivery of a product or service.

The SSD fields 16 also include an identifier 18, one or more sub-identifiers 180, and permissions 19. The identifier 18 includes metadata 14 that identifies the parent transaction resource 12 and is used by sub-transaction resources 120, and clients 28, to access the parent transaction resource 12. Likewise, the one or more sub-identifiers 180 identify one or more sub-transaction resources 120 and are used by the parent transaction resource 12 to access the one or more sub-transaction resources 120. The permissions 19 identifies the clients 28 permitted access to the parent transaction resource 12 and, therefore, control who can view the active document 10. An SSD field 16 will also identify the resource handler 30 for the parent transaction resource 12.

Together, the identifier 18 and the sub-identifiers 180 link the parent transaction resource 12 to the sub-transaction resources 120. The link is effected whenever the parent transaction resource 12 or sub-transaction resource 120 are accessed. For example, when the parent transaction resource 12 is accessed, the sub-identifiers 120 are

used to access the sub-transaction resources 120 in order to update the SSD fields 16. The updating of the SSD fields 16 is described in further detail below.

Each sub-transaction resource 120 also comprises metadata 140 describing a process or secondary transaction, such as a sales order, created as a result of the parent transaction. The sub-transaction resource metadata 140 is also organized in SSD fields 160 of the sub-transaction resource 120. Similarly, each SSD field 160 includes metadata 140 describing one or more attributes of the sub-transaction resource 120. The sub-transaction resource SSD fields 160 also include a sub-identifier 180, which identifies the particular sub-transaction resource 120, and the identifier 18 described above. An SSD field 160 will also identify the resource handler 30 for the sub-transaction resource 120.

The SSD fields 160 also include transaction specific data 145 that is relevant to the parent transaction. The transaction specific data 145 corresponds to certain SSD fields 16 in the parent transaction resource 12. For example, as seen in Figure 2, the transaction specific data 145 in a sub-transaction resource 120 is the price, which corresponds to a price SSD field 16. Accordingly, when the transaction specific data 145 is changed, the metadata 14 in the corresponding SSD field 16 will automatically be updated to incorporate this change.

Figure 3 illustrates a method of creating an active document 10. The method shown comprises the steps of initiating a parent transaction 400, creating a parent transaction resource 402, creating a sub-transaction resource 404, and linking the parent transaction resource with the sub-transaction resource 406. The initiating step 400 is usually conducted by a first enterprise that determines to undertake a transaction, generally to purchase or sell products or services, between itself and a second enterprise. A purchase order is frequently used for such transactions and, therefore, may be the parent transaction. Consequently, in the present example, the initiating step 400 comprises submitting the purchase order.

The first creating step 402, comprises generating a plurality of data fields, the SSD fields 16, and populating (filing in) the SSD fields 16 of the parent transaction resource with data from the initiated parent transaction. Populating the SSD fields 16

comprises entering the metadata 14 into the SSD fields 16. The first creating step 402 further comprises registering the parent transaction resource 12 in the repository 24. The parent transaction resource 12 is registered in the repository 24 by saving the metadata 14 in the repository.

5 The second creating step 44 is similar to the first creating step 402. The second creating step 404 comprises populating the SSD fields 160 of the sub-transaction resource by entering the sub-transaction metadata 140 into the SSD fields 160 and registering the sub-transaction resource 120 in the repository 24 by saving the sub-transaction metadata 140 in the repository 24.

10 The linking step 406 comprises entering the sub-identifier 180 into the SSD fields 16 and entering the identifier 18 into the SSD fields 160. The identifier 18 is known at the time the sub-transaction resource 120 is created, so it is entered during the second creating step. However, the sub-identifier 180 is not always known when the parent transaction resource 12 is created. For example, the process or secondary transaction
15 described by the sub-transaction resource 120 may not have been anticipated when the parent transaction resource 12 was created. If the sub-identifier 180 is known at the time the parent transaction resource 12 is created, then is entered during the first creating step 402 described above. If the sub-identifier 180 is not known at the time the parent transaction resource 12 is created, then it will be entered in the SSD fields 16 after the
20 sub-transaction resource 120 is registered.

 The above-described steps can be conducted programmatically. For example, the parent transaction resource can be created by submitting code written in XML format and submitted to the core 22. The code may be written with any suitable programming language for which there are libraries for creating and manipulating XML documents, such
25 as Java, C++, Perl, and Python. The programming language should enable XML and web-based applications. The code would define the SSD fields 16 and provide the metadata 14 that populates the SSD fields 16. The code is submitted to the core 22 from a client 28. The core 22 saves the metadata 14 in the repository 24. The same process may be repeated for the sub-transaction resource 120.

Alternatively, the above-described steps can be conducted by submitting XML documents to the core 22 from a client 28. An XML document, representing the parent transaction (a purchase order) is created using an application capable of generating XML documents (e.g., a capable web browser or word processor). The XML document would include data fields (SSD fields 16) populated with data (metadata 14) describing the parent transaction. The core 22 saves the data in the data fields in the repository 24. The same process may be repeated for the sub-transaction resource 120

Once the active document 10 is created, requests to view the active document 10 can be processed. As shown in Figure 4, a method of viewing the active document 10 comprises the steps of accessing the parent transaction resource 500, updating the SSD fields of the parent transaction resource 502 and presenting the parent transaction resource 504. The accessing step 500 includes sending a request to access the parent transaction resource 12 from a client 28 to the core 22. A user seeking to view the active document 10 may send the request through a web browser 42; the user's web-browser 42 address identifies the client 28. The request includes the identifier 18. The core 22 processes the request to access the parent transaction resource 12. The core 22 searches metadata stored in the repository 24 to find a match to the identifier 18. Upon finding a match, the core 22 examines the permissions 19 to determine if the client 28 is permitted to access the parent transaction resource 12. If the client 28 is so permitted, the core 22 examines the SSD fields 16 to determine the resource handler 30 for the parent transaction resource 12. Once determined, the core 12 forwards the request to the resource handler 30.

The updating step 502 is conducted by the resource handler 30 and the core 22. The resource handler 30 determines the sub-identifiers 180 included in the SSD fields 16 and sends a request to the core 22 for each sub-transaction resource 120 so identified. The core 22 processes these requests as above and forwards the requests to the resource handler 30 (Note: the resource handler 30 for the parent transaction resource 12 and the sub-transaction resources 120 are assumed to be the same for the present discussion, although there may be different resource handlers 30 for each of the resources). The resource handler 30 physically accesses the parent transaction resource 12 and the sub-

transaction resources 120 and compares the transaction specific data 145 with the corresponding SSD fields 16. If any transaction specific data 145 is different then the metadata 14 in a corresponding SSD field 16, the resource handler 30 updates the corresponding SSD field 16. Any changes to the metadata 14 are stored in the repository 24.

The presenting step 504 comprises the resource handler 30 sending the parent transaction resource 12 to the requesting client 28 through the core 22. The requesting client 28 receives the parent transaction resource 12 and the presenting step 504 further comprises the client 28 displaying the parent transaction resource 12 on the web browser 43 to the user. Since the parent transaction resource is in XML format, the user can view the parent transaction resource 12 and its metadata 14.

Once the parent transaction resource 12 and a sub-transaction resource 120 are linked, the core 22 will access the parent transaction resource 12 anytime the sub-transaction resource 120 is accessed, including when the sub-transaction resource 120 is registered. Accordingly, any changes made in the sub-transaction resource 120 to transaction specific data 145 will automatically be made in the corresponding SSD fields 16 of the parent transaction resource 12, as described above in the updating step. The parent transaction resource 12 effectively "subscribes" to changes "published" by the sub-transaction resource 120. The published changes are known as "events" in the e-speak system, as described in the e-speak documents.

As illustrated in Figure 5, secondary transactions may spin-off or create additional processes or transactions. In such a situation, a sub-transaction resource 120 acts as a parent transaction resource for a secondary sub-transaction resource 1200. The sub-transaction resource 120 and the secondary sub-transaction resource 1200 are linked in same manner as described above. Any changes to transaction specific data 1450 in the secondary sub-transaction resource 1200 are likewise automatically made in corresponding SSD fields 160 of the sub-transaction resource 120.

As a result, the sub-transaction resource 120 also becomes an active document 10'. The sub-transaction resource 120 can be accessed as an active document 10', viewing it to determine the status or other information about the additional process or

transaction. However, changes made to transaction specific data 145 in the sub-transaction resource 120 will still automatically update corresponding SSD fields 16, including those changes resulting from changes to transaction specific data 1450 in the secondary sub-transaction resource 1200.

Any active document 10 can be catalogued in e-speak folders (not shown) in the repository 24. E-speak folders are organized similarly to "Bookmarks" or "Favorites" in web-browsers. Typically, the e-speak folders are named with the an appropriate title indicating the type of active documents 10 found therein. For example, as noted above, a purchase order may be an active document 10. Accordingly, purchase orders are catalogued in a purchase order e-speak folder in the repository 24. Subsequently, whenever an enterprise wished to create a purchase order active document 10, it access the purchase order e-speak folder 32 to view a sample purchase order. If the sample purchase order was appropriate for the type of product or service that the enterprise wished to purchase, the enterprise would use the sample purchase order as a template for a new parent transaction resource. The enterprise would clear the old metadata from the SSD fields of the purchase order and enter new metadata in the SSD fields describing the attributes of the purchase order. The new parent transaction resource would then be registered and linked as described above.

Figure 6 illustrates a sample active document 10. The active document 10 comprises a purchase order resource 12'. The purchase order resource 12' includes the following SSD fields 16: type and quantity of product being purchased, 50 widgets; price, \$5 a widget; and, expected delivery, 5 May 2000. The purchase order resource 12' also includes: an identifier 18', which is the purchase order number, PO#2; a first sub-identifier 180, which is a sales order number, SO#3; and, a second sub-identifier 180, which is a delivery ticket number, D.T.#1. Accordingly, the purchase order resource 12' is linked to a sales order resource 120' and a delivery ticket resource 120'. The sales order resource 120' comprises type and quantity and price SSD fields 160 with transaction specific data 145' corresponding to the first two SSD fields 16 described above. The delivery ticket resources 120' comprises a delivery expected SSD field 160 with transaction specific data 145' corresponding to the third SSD field 16 described above. Likewise, both the

sales order resource 120' and the delivery ticket resource 120' contain the identifier 18 and their own sub-identifiers. As can be seen by examining Figure 6, when a user accesses the purchase order resource 12', the user will be able to view all of the relevant information from one source.

5 While the invention has been disclosed in this patent application by reference to the details of preferred embodiments of the invention, it is to be understood that the disclosure is intended in an illustrative rather than in a limiting sense, as it is contemplated that modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art, within the spirit of the invention and the scope of the appended claims.

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What is claimed is:

1. An active document encapsulating a transaction and the transaction's current status, comprising:

a first set of data fields, wherein the data fields represent attributes of a parent transaction and include a sub-identifier field; and

a first set of metadata, wherein the first set of metadata populates the first set of data fields and describes the attributes represented by the first set of data fields, the sub-identifier field including metadata from the first set of metadata that identifies a secondary transaction, linking data generated by the secondary transaction to the active document.

2. The active document of claim 1, further comprising a parent transaction resource comprising the first set of data fields and the first set of metadata.

3. The active document of claim 2, wherein the sub-identifier field links the parent transaction resource to a sub-transaction resource which comprises a second set of data fields that represent attributes of the secondary transaction and a second set of metadata that populates the second set of data fields and describes the attributes of the secondary transaction, whereby changes to the sub-transaction resource are reflected in the parent transaction resource.

4. The active document of claim 3, wherein the second set of metadata comprises transaction specific data that corresponds to at least one data field in the first set of data fields, whereby a change to the transaction specific data is made in the corresponding data field by populating the corresponding data field with the transaction specific data.

5. The active document of claim 1, wherein the first set of metadata is stored in a repository that is accessed by a core.

6. The active document of claim 5, wherein the core matches the sub-identifier field to the secondary transaction and updates the first set of data fields by populating at least one data field in the first set of data fields with the data generated by the secondary transaction.

7. The active document of claim 1, wherein the active document is written in extensible markup language and is capable of being displayed by a web browser.

8. The active document of claim 1, wherein the data fields include a permissions fields which includes metadata that specifies who can access the active document.

9. The active document of claim 1, wherein the data fields include a second sub-identifier field that includes metadata that identifies a second secondary transaction, linking data generated by the second secondary transaction to the active document.

10. The active document of claim 1, wherein the parent transaction is a purchase order and the secondary transaction is a sales order.

11. A method for creating an active document that encapsulates a transaction and the transaction's current status, comprising the steps of:

creating a parent transaction resource, wherein the parent transaction resource represents a parent transaction and is linked to data generated by a secondary transaction, the creating a parent transaction resource step comprising the steps of:

generating a first set of data fields, wherein the first set of data fields represent attributes of the parent transaction and include a sub-identifier field; and

populating the first set of data fields with a first set of metadata, wherein the metadata describes the attributes represented by the data fields.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:
creating a sub-transaction resource, wherein the sub-transaction resource represents the secondary transaction, the creating a sub-transaction resource step comprising the steps of:

5 generating a second set of data fields, wherein the second set of data fields represent attributes of the secondary transaction and include an identifier field; and

10 populating the second set of data fields with a second set of metadata, wherein the metadata describes the attributes represented by the data fields and includes transaction specific data that corresponds to at least one of the first set of data fields in the parent transaction resource.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:

15 linking the parent transaction resource and the secondary transaction resource so that changes made to the transaction specific data are made in the corresponding at least one of the first set of data fields in the parent transaction resource.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the linking step comprises the steps of:

20 populating the sub-identifier field with metadata that identifies the secondary transaction; and

populating the identifier field with metadata that identifies the parent transaction.

- 25 15. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:

registering the parent transaction resource and the sub-transaction resource in a repository, whereby the first set of metadata and the second set of metadata may be accessed and updated.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the creating step is conducted by submitting code written in a programming language that supports extensible markup language, the code comprising the first set of data fields and the first set of metadata.

5 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the programming language is Java, C++, Perl or Python.

18. A method of viewing an active document that encapsulates a transaction and the transaction's current status, comprising the steps of:

10 accessing a parent transaction resource, wherein the parent transaction resource comprises data fields that represent attributes of a parent transaction and metadata that populates the data fields and the parent transaction resource is linked to a secondary transaction resource that comprises transaction specific data;

15 updating the parent transaction resource with the transaction specific data from the secondary transaction resource, wherein any changes to the transaction specific data are made to the data fields in the parent transaction resource; and presenting the updated parent transaction resource to a user.

20 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the accessing step comprises the following steps:

sending a request for the parent transaction resource from a client to a core;

25 determining if the client is permitted to access the parent transaction resource; and

forwarding the request to a resource handler for the parent transaction resource, wherein the resource handler physically accesses the parent transaction resource.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the displaying step comprises the steps of:
- sending the updated transaction to the client; and
 - displaying the updated transaction using a web browser, whereby the metadata may be viewed.

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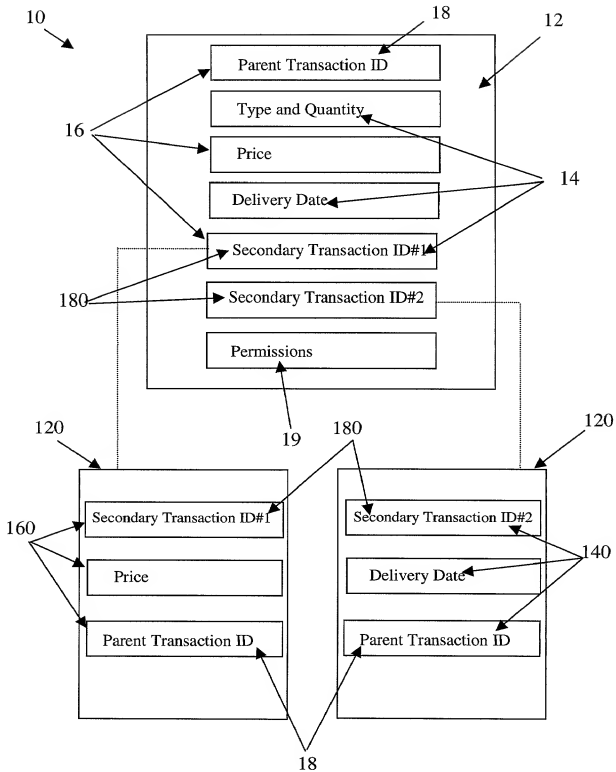


Figure 2

4/7

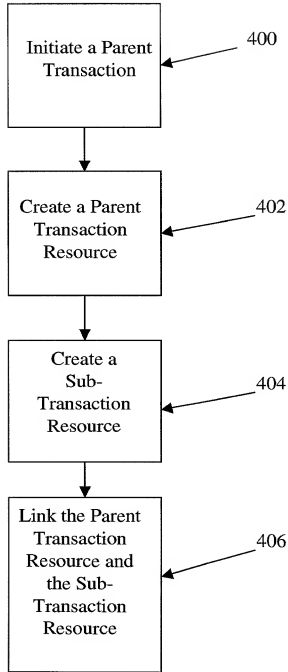


Figure 3

5/7

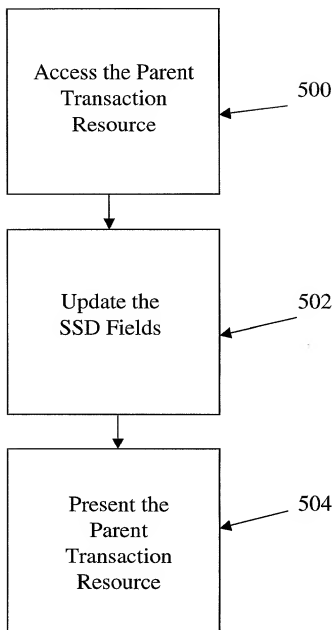


Figure 4

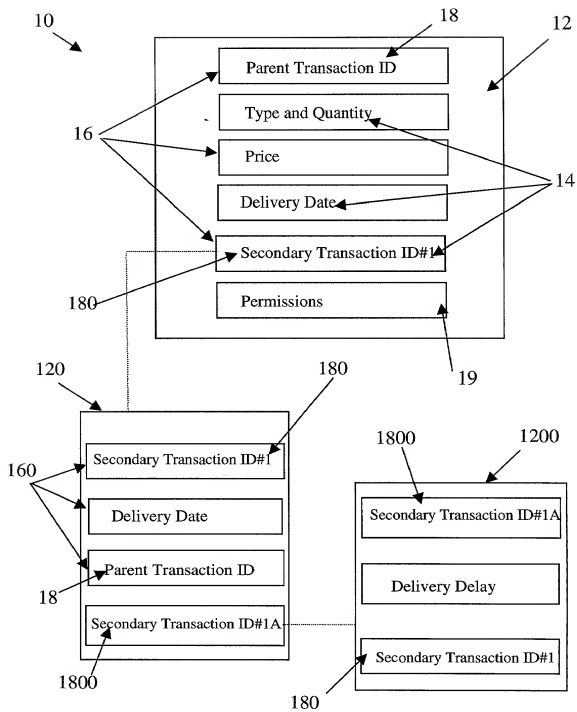


Figure 5

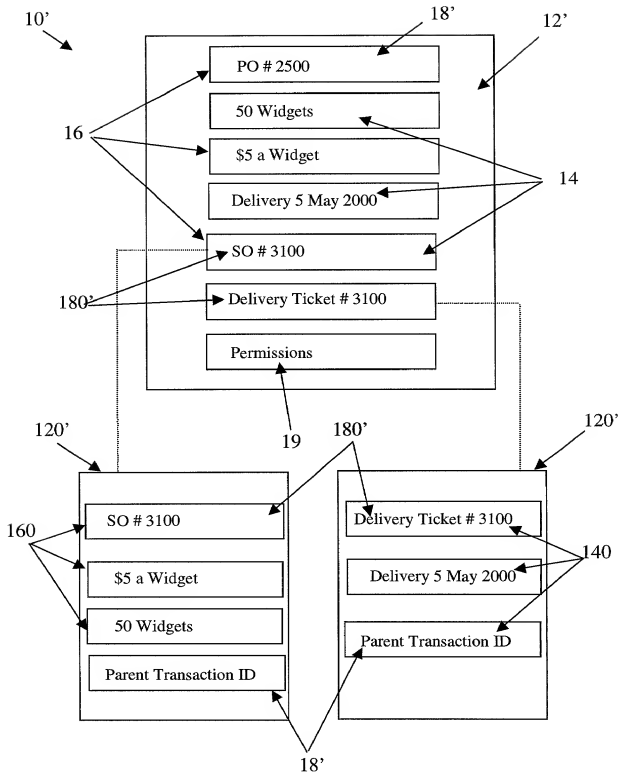


Figure 6

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATIONATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 1099278#

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence/post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

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the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

() was filed on _____ as US Application Serial No. or PCT International Application Number _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understood the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

Foreign Application(s) and/or Claim of Foreign Priority

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor(s) certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor(s) certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE FILED	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119
			YES: _____ NO: _____
			YES: _____ NO: _____

Provisional Application

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

APPLICATION SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE

U. S. Priority Claim

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

APPLICATION SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	STATUS (patented/pending/abandoned)

POWER OF ATTORNEY:

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Inventor: Sriram RamaniCitizenship: IndiaResidence: 40032 Catalina Palce, Fremont, CA 94539Post Office Address: Same as residence

Inventor's Signature

Sriram

Date

3/14/2000

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10992784

Inventor's Signature _____ Date _____